

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1.(Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a stiffened tubular filter element for use in connection with gas turbines, the method comprising:

centrally arranging a hollow tubular inner insert inside of a hollow tubular outer insert, securing a top flange at one end of said inserts, ~~and stiffening said inserts~~ to form a said tubular filter element ~~by providing stiffening net, the net provided by:~~

applying a hardenable liquid ~~mass in the form of multiple lines (5)~~ to the an outer and/or an inner side of the ~~tubular inserts~~ filter element by discharging the liquid from one or more nozzles while moving at least one of the nozzles relative to the filter element to form multiple lines thereon ~~tubular inserts, and hardening the liquid mass to stiffen the inserts for forming the filter element (1), and further comprising:~~

applying the liquid lines so as to form one or more rings which surround the tubular filter element, by fixing one or more nozzles in the longitudinal direction relative to the tubular filter element, while rotating the tubular filter element a number of rotations about a longitudinal axis thereof, and oscillating one or more nozzles with an oscillation greater than or equal to a distance between two rings and smaller than or equal to the length of the filter element, thereby applying and forming connecting lines between the rings, the rings and the connecting lines being in the form of a lattice; and,

hardening the multiple liquid lines to form a stiffening net which is integral with the tubular filter element, thereby forming the stiffened tubular filter element.

2.(Cancelled).

3.(Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a stiffened filter element according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the rings (8) formed from the liquid ~~mass (5)~~ lines extend helically, ~~one or more rings (8) formed along the outer and/or inner surface of the filter element (1).~~

4.(Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a stiffened filter element according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, further comprising using one or more nozzles (4, 7) to apply the liquid ~~mass (5)~~ lines in rings (8) ~~along the outer and/or inner surface of the filter element (1), said rings being~~ arranged in planes essentially parallel with end faces (10, 11) of the filter element.

5.(Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a stiffened filter element according to claims 1 ~~or 2~~ further comprising using one or more nozzles (4) to first apply the liquid ~~mass (5)~~ lines in rings (8), while rotating the tubular filter element (1) about a longitudinal axis thereof and then moving the tubular filter element to and fro in a longitudinal direction with an oscillation greater than or equal to a distance between two rings (8) and smaller than or equal to a length of the filter element (1) for applying connecting lines (9) between the rings (8).

6.(Cancelled).

7.(Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the filter element (1) is made of combustible materials.

8.(New) The method according to claim 1 wherein the stiffening net is formed on the outer side of the tubular filter element.

9.(New) The method according to claim 1 wherein the stiffening net is formed on the inner side of the tubular filter element.

10.(New) The method according to claim 1 wherein a first stiffening net is formed on the outer side of the tubular filter element and a second stiffening net is formed on the inner side of the tubular filter element.